

NBMAA

2022 Winter Newsletter



Dear Friends,



This season of giving provided us an opportunity to reflect on the year and to express our gratitude for the generosity and thoughtfulness of others. I take great pride in the impact you have made on this Museum—your contributions to our Annual Fund, memberships, donated gifts of time and talent, visitation—and all who have given so generously in a multitude of ways to the Museum throughout 2021. The NBMAA is thriving in every possible way and we are all grateful for what you bring to our community.

The holiday season also offered a time of quiet contemplation and an opportunity to open up space to look ahead in a clearer way. I hope that you will join us as we launch into 2022 with brand new special exhibitions and a collection of virtual and onsite programming designed to enrich and inspire. We are thrilled to kick-off the year with the opening of our newest special exhibition,

The Poetry of Nature: Hudson River School Landscapes from the New-York Historical Society on January 28. The show beautifully complements and expands upon our own celebrated collection of 19th-century landscape paintings. Held concurrent to the Bicentennial of Frederic Law Olmsted's birth, the exhibition will provide a timely opportunity to explore how artists and landscape architects have depicted and shaped the land throughout American history.

Alongside *The Poetry of Nature*, the NBMAA will debut an array of programming meant to boost environmental awareness and appreciation. We will be collaborating with our Community Advisory Group and a number of local partners, such as New Britain ROOTS, CCSU, Hartt School Community Division, and local businesses, to bring accessible programming to our Museum visitors.

Finally, I have some wonderful news to share with you. I am happy to announce that a new director has been elected by the Board of Trustees. Brett Abbott currently serves as Director of Collections and Exhibitions at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art in Fort Worth and will join us in New Britain on February 15, 2022. Look forward to hearing more from Brett in the next newsletter.

Happiest New Year to you all.

Dona V. Cassella
Interim Director and Chair of the Board of Trustees

IN MEMORIAM

Jeannette Angelbeck, former member
Carol Argazzi, former member and donor
Gerald I. Blank, former member and donor
Edwina L. Bosco, longtime member
Janice A. Burrill, longtime member and donor
Leonard G. Clough, American Art Circle member, Heritage Society member, Trustee Emeritus
Timothy V. Craine, former member and donor

Nick D'Avirro, longtime member
Robert DeLisa, former member and donor
Lydia K. Dyson, longtime member and volunteer
Anne Eglinton, former member and donor
John M. Glaeser, longtime member
Charles N. Leach, docent, volunteer, American Art Circle member, longtime donor, Heritage Society member, former Trustee
Robert D. Pezze, former volunteer and member

Lucille Ryan, former member and donor
John G.T. Slater, Sr., Heritage Society member
Donald Sprague, former docent, volunteer and member
Betty Stalter, former member
Ray G. Torns, Jr., member and donor

NEW BRITAIN MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART

04 | *The Poetry of Nature: Hudson River School Landscapes from the New-York Historical Society*

07 | EXHIBITIONS:

Eva LeWitt

Steel, String, Spit Bite: Selections from the LeWitt Collection

American Art in New Britain: The Evolution of the NBMAA

Sol LeWitt Prints at the Delamar West Hartford

13 | Education & Community

16 | Membership

22 | Museum Spotlight

EXHIBITION SUPPORT

The Poetry of Nature has been organized by the New-York Historical Society.

This exhibition has been generously supported by the Kathryn Cox Special Exhibitions Fund. Additional support provided by the Bailey Family Fund for Special Exhibitions and Special Exhibition Fund donors Marian and Russell Burke and John N. Howard.

The Poetry of Nature programs are made possible by John M. & Sandra L. Jezowski, The Tomasso Family in memory of Jim Tomasso, and Connecticut Humanities. Additional support for programs is provided by Sharon and Dave Jepson, Allison and Jay Bombara, Dona and Michael Cassella, Kelly and Jonathan Jarvis, and Ken Carifa and Mark Garavel.

CThumanities

Front Cover: Albert Bierstadt (1830-1902), *Autumn Woods, Oneida County, State of New York* (detail), ca. 1886. Oil on linen. New-York Historical Society, Gift of Mrs. Albert Bierstadt, 1910.11

Eva LeWitt's NBMAA installation is made possible with support from the Howard Fromson Endowment for Emerging Artists.

Our thanks to the following NBMAA supporters:



StanleyBlack&Decker

Jay and Lorraine
Breuninger Memorial
Fund



wshu | Public Radio



POETRY OF NATURE

Hudson River School Landscapes
from the New-York Historical Society

Louisa Davis Minot (1788-1858), *Niagara Falls*, 1818. Oil on canvas. New-York Historical Society, Gift of Mrs. Waldron Phoenix Belknap, Sr. to the Waldron Phoenix Belknap, Jr. Collection, 1956.3

JANUARY 28 — MAY 22, 2022

Robert & Dorothy Vance Gallery and Stitzer Family Gallery

The New Britain Museum of American Art is honored to present *The Poetry of Nature: Hudson River School Landscapes from the New-York Historical Society*, January 28 through May 22, 2022. A stunning array of over 40 paintings created between 1818 and 1886, *The Poetry of Nature* illustrates America's scenic splendor as seen through the eyes of over 25 leading Hudson River School artists, including Thomas Cole, Asher B. Durand, John F. Kensett, Albert Bierstadt, as well as lesser-known but important artists Josephine Walters, Christopher Pearse Cranch, and Louisa Davis Minot, among others. Its display at the NBMAA will include the addition of works by Robert S. Duncanson, the first Black artist of the Hudson River School to gain international acclaim. Drawn from the collection of the New-York Historical Society, the exhibition explores the exchange of influence among this group of artists, their favored sketching grounds, and the legacy of Hudson River School painting today.

The Hudson River School rose to eminence in New York during the first half of the nineteenth century. The growing number of crowded industrial cities in the East gave rise to an appreciation for pictures of

the landscape untouched by man. This closely-knit group of artists, together with like-minded poets and writers, forged a self-consciously "American" landscape vision and literary voice. Both were grounded in the exploration of the natural world as a rouse for spiritual renewal and as an expression of cultural and national identity. The Hudson River and the varied scenery along its banks provided the subjects for many of their landscape paintings. *The Poetry of Nature* looks in-depth at depictions of the Northeast and New England.

"We are honored to showcase this spectacular group of Hudson River School masterworks from the New-York Historical Society's preeminent collection. *The Poetry of Nature* beautifully complements and expands upon our own celebrated collection of 19th-century landscape paintings."

DONA V. CASSELLA,

Chair of the Board of Trustees and Interim Director



In the context of this exhibition, the NBMAA will highlight contemporary perspectives on land use, the environment, and landscape painting in America through related programming, and by welcoming contemporary artists and scholars to reflect upon the legacy of the Hudson River School and what it means within our world today. Additionally, the exhibition will take place concurrent to the Bicentennial of Frederick Law Olmsted's birth (April 2022), and will provide a rich platform for programming that will further explore how artists and landscape architects depicted and shaped the American landscape in the 1800s.

The New Britain Museum of American Art's Hudson River School holdings are rich and

beloved by members and visitors alike. *The Poetry of Nature* will be complemented by highlights in the Henry and Sharon Martin Gallery such as Thomas Cole's *The Cove*, *Catskills*; Frederic Edwin Church's *West Rock, New Haven*, and Asher Brown Durand's *Sunday Morning*.

The exhibition has been organized by the New-York Historical Society, which features one of the most renowned collections of Hudson River School paintings. Dr. Linda S. Ferber, the director emerita of the New-York Historical Society Museum and a leading authority on Hudson River School artists, is the curator for this extraordinary exhibition.

Left: Thomas Cole (1801-1848), *Mountain Landscape*, ca. 1827. Oil on canvas. New-York Historical Society, The Robert L. Stuart Collection, the gift of his widow, Mrs. Mary Stuart, S-230

Upper right: Asher B. Durand (1796-1886), *Catskill Clove*, 1864. Oil on canvas. New-York Historical Society, Gift of Miss Nora Durand Woodman 1932.14

Lower right: Sanford R. Gifford (1823-1880), *Landscape with River (Scene in Northern New York)*, 1849. Oil on canvas. New-York Historical Society, Gift of DeWitt M. Lockman, 1953.51

"The 'Poetry of Nature' exhibition and the NBMAA Hudson River School collection promise to show the link between these paintings and Frederick Law Olmsted's 'painting' with landscape design. I am delighted to support this celebration of pastoral and picturesque styles plus the beginning of the conservation movement."

KATHRYN COX

RELATED PROGRAMMING

Programming will support learning about the importance of environmental stewardship, ecology, and access to land.

Members Early Viewing

January 27, 5:30-8 p.m.

VIRTUAL KEYNOTE | Betsy Kornhauser

January 30, 3 p.m.

LECTURE | Charles Button Climate Change Update

Thursday, February 10, 6-7 p.m.

LECTURE | Author Victoria Johnson

February 27, 3 p.m.

LECTURE | Charles Button on Connecticut Agriculture

Thursday, March 10, 6-7 p.m.

DOCENT-LED GALLERY TALK WITH CAROL LACOSS | *Poetry in Nature: The Hudson River School Artists and Nineteenth Century American Writers*

March 16, April 6, May 11 at 1 p.m.

LECTURE | *Old Objects and New Audiences: The Hudson River School Today with William Coleman*

March 20, 3 p.m.

A Day of Learning/Symposium | The Olmsted Legacy

April 20

FILM | Frederick Law Olmsted: Designing America

April 21, 6 p.m.

LECTURE | Landscape Art as Science with Linda Tomasso

May 1 at 3 p.m.

WELLNESS PROGRAMS

- Walking Walnut Hill Park – March through May
- Slow Art in the Park – March through May
- Lessons by New Britain ROOTS on Gardening, Soil Testing, Seed Saving, and Healthy Cooking
- Virtual Slow Art

Check NBMAA.ORG for details and updates throughout the coming weeks.

ADULT STUDIO CLASSES

- Plein Air Painting Workshops
- Sculpture and Sketching in Walnut Hill Park
- From the Earth: Working with Clay
- Landscape Collage: The Poetry of Spring Garden
- Landscape and Nature Prints | Monotype Workshop with Kasey Ramirez

FOR FAMILIES

- Family Guides
- April vacation programs
- April 16 - Family Earth and Arts Festival
- Studio@4 classes

TOURS:

Docent-Led Highlight Tours

Weekly starting in February:
Sundays 1 p.m., select Thursdays 6 p.m.



ABOUT THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The New-York Historical Society, one of America's pre-eminent cultural institutions, is dedicated to fostering research and presenting history and art exhibitions and public programs that reveal the dynamism of history and its influence on the world of today. Founded in 1804, New-York Historical has a mission to explore the richly layered history of New York City and State and the country, and to serve as a national forum for the discussion of issues surrounding the making and meaning of history.

John F. Kensett (1816-1872), *Seashore (Sunset on the Coast)*, 1861. Oil on canvas. New-York Historical Society, The Robert L. Stuart Collection, the gift of his widow Mrs. Mary Stuart, S-42



William T. Richards (1833-1905), *June Woods*
(*Germantown*), 1864. Oil on linen. New-York Historical Society, The Robert L.
Stuart Collection, the gift of his widow Mrs. Mary Stuart, S-127



EVA LEWITT

LeWitt Family Staircase

New York-based artist Eva LeWitt creates optically dazzling installations and sculptures fashioned from everyday commercial and industrial materials that she casts, dyes, and cuts by hand. Her large-scale abstract artworks comprise hanging geometric forms and vibrant colors that evoke domestic or theatrical decor, and that explore tensions between gravity and weightlessness, transparency and opacity, abstraction and decoration.

A new site-specific work created for the NBMAA, LeWitt's monumental sculpture is composed of bands of colorful coated mesh fabric that, when assembled, suggest a dynamic interplay of linear and circular



Eva LeWitt, *Untitled*, 2021

forms. In this work, LeWitt transforms lengths of coated mesh, which is typically used for high-visibility work wear or privacy screens, into an immersive environment that activates the Museum's spaces with shimmering color and shape. While this is her first collaboration with the NBMAA, LeWitt has been featured in solo exhibitions at prestigious institutions including the ICA Boston; The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum; the American Academy of Arts and Letters; and The Jewish Museum.

ARTIST BIO

New York based artist Eva LeWitt's site-specific installations and wall-based sculptures address sculptural concerns such as volume and weight, and the tensions between industrial and hand-made fabrication. Using soft, pliable, semi-transparent and semi-absorptive materials such as acetate, latex and sponge, she subtly renders variations in tone, exploring the expressive properties of light through strategies of accretion, modularity and repetition.

LeWitt's works are held in the permanent collections of the Hirshhorn Museum, Washington D.C.; Kistefos Museum, Jevnaker, Norway; and X Museum, Beijing.

LeWitt's works can currently be seen in *Ground/Work* (2020-2021) at the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Massachusetts. A large-scale, site-responsive installation by the artist is also on view at the ICA Boston (2021).

STEEL • STRING • SPIT BITE

SELECTIONS FROM THE LEWITT COLLECTION

ON VIEW THROUGH
MARCH 6, 2022

Throughout his career, Sol LeWitt assembled a remarkable collection of more than 4,000 works by over 1,200 well-known and emerging artists, whom he encouraged and supported through the purchase or trade of artworks. While his own artistic practice was typically guided by logical systems and procedures, LeWitt's personal art collection reflects his enduring curiosity and open-mindedness toward the creative output of others.

Steel, String, Spit Bite: Selections from the LeWitt Collection is the first exhibition ever to focus exclusively on work by women artists in the LeWitt Collection. Featuring a remarkable cadre

of over 40 artists—including Lynda Benglis, Ellen Carey, Eva Hesse, Sylvia Plimack Mangold, Shirin Neshat, Janet Passey, Kiki Smith, Pat Steir, and Jessica Stockholder—the exhibition reveals insights into LeWitt's social milieu and the artistic concerns and interests they shared.

Spanning diverse mediums of photography, sculpture, prints, and painting, *Steel, String, Spit Bite* explores aspects of abstraction, figuration, materiality, and process, in works collected by LeWitt from the 1960s to the 2000s—many of which will be on view for the first time ever. The exhibition is curated by New York-based artist Andy George Robertson.

“The best artists are almost always the best art viewers — and if they can afford it, collectors, too. Sol LeWitt could and was all of the above, which makes showing his collection... an instructive view not only into his mind but American art itself.”

MURRAY WHYTE, *The Boston Globe*, “Being there, doing that: A dozen exhibits to check out now around New England”

Installation view, Right: Ellen Carey with her works, *Negative Pull With Filigree (side)*, 2005, P7 Color Polaroid 20 x 24 negative, LeWitt Collection, Chester, CT and *Black Pull With Filigree (side and spert)*, 2004, P7 Color Polaroid 20 x 24 color positive print, LeWitt Collection, Chester, CT





AMERICAN ART IN NEW BRITAIN THE EVOLUTION OF THE NBMAA

ON VIEW NOW THROUGH OCTOBER 1, 2022

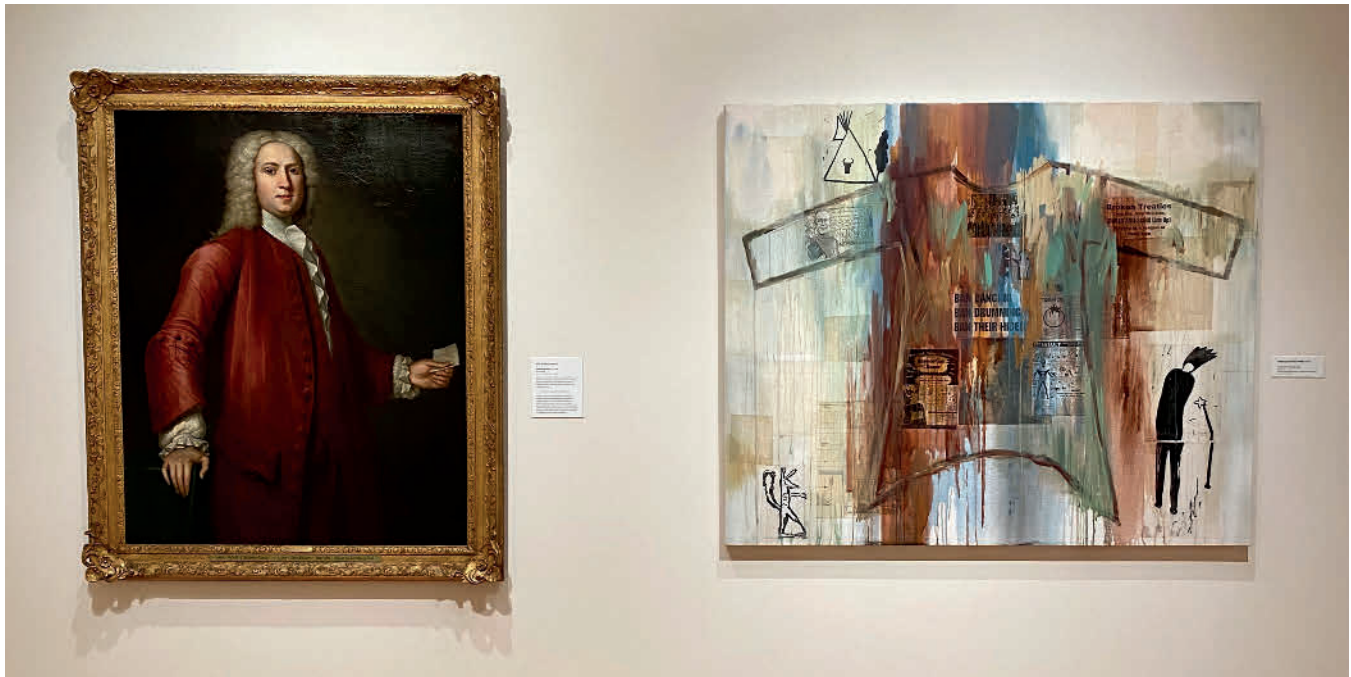
Maximilian E. and Marion O. Hoffman Foundation Gallery

Among the oldest museums dedicated exclusively to American Art, the New Britain Museum of American Art is tied inextricably to the community and history of New Britain. For over a century, the city and its people have shaped and brought meaning to our institution. In conjunction with New Britain's sesquicentennial year and the recent reopening of the NBMAA's renovated Landers House, the

Museum presents *American Art in New Britain: The Evolution of the NBMAA*. This special year-long installation features highlights from the permanent collection including our earliest-dated work and most recent acquisition, as well as a timeline that traces the NBMAA's rich history and unique identity as an American art museum in New Britain.

You, too, can be part of creating our history, by sharing your recollections of the NBMAA here:





JOHN SMIBERT (1688-1751)

Benjamin Colman, ca. 1740

Oil on canvas

Harriet Russell Stanley Fund, 1948.01

John Smibert's portrait of Benjamin Coleman (1710–1765) is the earliest dated work in the collection of the New Britain Museum of American Art.

Colman, who graduated from Harvard University in 1727, was a prominent merchant in colonial Boston. Smibert's portrait identifies the sitter, his profession, and his location by means of the letter in his outstretched hand: *To/Mr Benjn Colman/Mercht/in/Bost[on]*.

Settling in Boston in 1728, Smibert, who was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, and had achieved renown as a portraitist in London, was one of the most influential artists in the colonies. His Boston studio served as an unofficial art academy for the following generation of American painters. Smibert brought the grand manner portrait style to America, providing a template for ambitious colonists to be portrayed as fashionably as their London counterparts.

JAUNE QUICK-TO-SEE SMITH (B. 1940)

I See Red: Ban Dancing, 1998

Mixed media on canvas

General Purchase Fund and William and Bette Batchelor Memorial Acquisition Fund, 2021.25

Purchased by the New Britain Museum of American Art in 2021, Jaune Quick-to-See Smith's painting is the Museum's most recent acquisition and the first work by a Native American woman to enter the permanent collection.

For six decades, Smith has created works that explore American art and culture from a Native worldview. She began her *I See Red* series in the early 1990s, during the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's arrival in the Americas. The series refers to the derogatory term "Red" that European settlers used for Indigenous people during the colonial period of the 17th and 18th centuries, as well as the notion of "seeing red," or becoming enraged.

Depicting a tunic traditionally worn by Native American

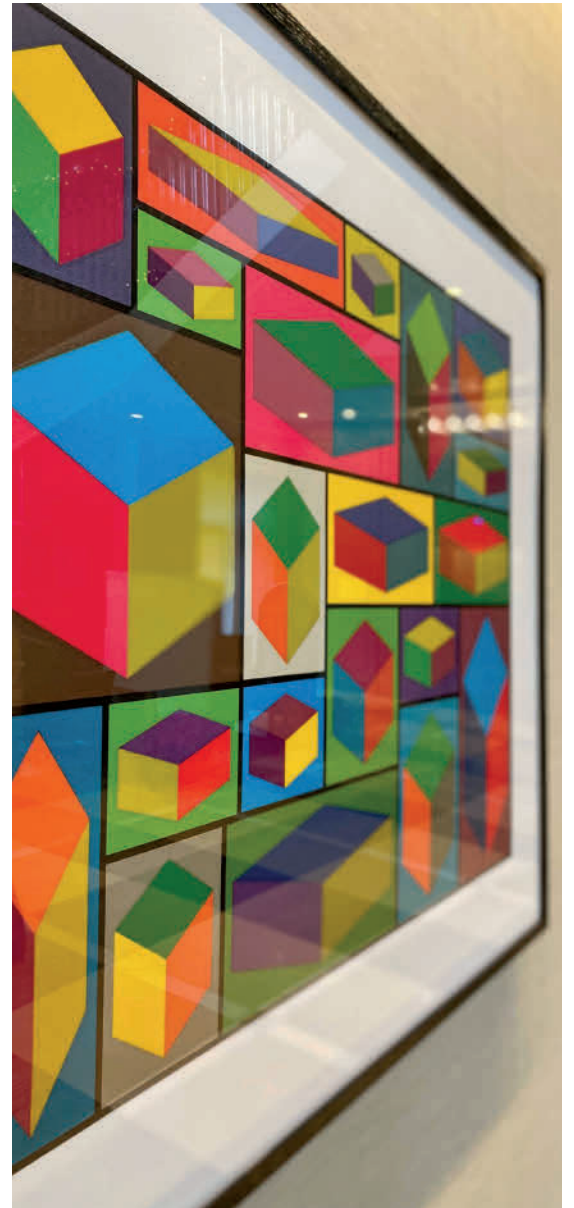
men, *I See Red: Ban Dancing* alludes to the Ghost Dance movement practiced by Native Americans in the late 1800s, with the intention of ending American westward expansion and bringing peace and unity to Native peoples. In text and imagery, Smith confronts the US Government's eventual ban of the Ghost Dance, as well as the eradication of Indigenous peoples and culture by colonizers throughout American history.

SOL LEWITT PRINTS

ON VIEW NOW THROUGH APRIL 1, 2022

At the Delamar West Hartford

In conjunction with the NBMAA's recent exhibition *Strict Beauty: Sol LeWitt Prints*—the most extensive exhibition of LeWitt's printwork to date—the Museum will present a related installation of LeWitt's prints at the Delamar West Hartford from December through Spring 2022. The exhibition will highlight the essential role of printmaking in LeWitt's career, deepening the understanding not only of the variety of LeWitt's output but of the genealogy of his distinct geometric and linear formal language. A gorgeous exhibition catalogue accompanies *Strict Beauty: Sol LeWitt Prints* and is available in the NBMAA Museum store.





EDUCATION AND
COMMUNITY

Children, Families, & Community

The NBMAA is thrilled to have welcomed so many children, families, and adults of every age and from every corner of the state, who have been coming to the Museum in recent months for classes, lectures, programs, tours, and a few artful shenanigans. Our lifelong art learners are in for a treat this winter and spring with dozens of brand new exhibition-related programs on the calendar, as well as the continuation of our most popular offerings. School tours have been refreshed, Art After Dark is launching, and a kaleidoscope of themed community celebrations and accessible community-focused offerings have been lovingly created for all.

All on-site classes have been paused for the month of January as we navigate the current COVID spike. Check the Museum website and calendar for updates and details. We look forward to learning with you.

FOR THE LITTLES:

ART EXPLORERS

Saturdays beginning in February, 10:30 a.m.-noon.

Ages 6-8 | Students learn to express their creativity using varied art methods and materials to create personal works of art inspired by Museum pieces. Explore a different area of the collection with new projects each week.

ART START

Saturdays beginning in February, 11-11:45 a.m.

Ages 3-5 | This program helps caregivers and young children discover art together at the Museum. Listen to a story and then explore line, shape, color and other elements of art with teaching artist Margaret Freedman.

FOR THE TWEENS:

STUDIO@4

Papermaking with Jasmine Ahern
Thursdays, February 3, 10, 17, & 24, 4-5:30 p.m.

Looking to Nature with Meredith Arcari Luciano
Thursdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31, 4-5:30 p.m.

STANLEY BLACK & DECKER MAKERSPACE

Children and families can look forward to new art activities to try in the Makerspace, focused around the landscapes from special exhibition *The Poetry of Nature*.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Our community is tightly woven into the fabric of our identity. The NBMAA takes every opportunity to recognize all that is important to our community members by celebrating with themed Community Days. Please join us for FREE all-day admission alongside art activities for families.

COMMUNITY DAY | THREE KING'S DAY
Thursday, January 6, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

COMMUNITY DAY | MLK DAY CELEBRATION
Monday, January 17, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

COMMUNITY DAY | PRESIDENT'S DAY
February 21

Free admission 10am-5pm, inspired take-and-make art activity and goodie bag.



Romare Howard Bearden, *Early Morning*, 1964, Collage on board, 9 1/2 x 10 7/8 in., Friends Purchase Fund, 1985.1

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The NBMAA celebrates Black History Month with an array of accessible programs. Take a deep dive and learn about some of the prolific Black artists in the Museum's permanent collection including Charles Ethan Porter, Henry Ossawa Tanner, Faith Ringgold, and Betye Saar. We are also delighted to offer families a Black History Month gallery scavenger hunt throughout the month.

SPOTLIGHT GALLERY TALKS | BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Select Wednesdays, 1-2 pm

SPOTLIGHT ON TANNER, PORTER, DUNCANSON, WITH LISA WILLIAMS

February 2

SPOTLIGHT ON RADCLIFFE BAILEY, WITH JASMINE DEJACKOME

February 16

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Take a closer look at some of the prolific women artists in the Museum's permanent collection through a series of insightful Gallery Talks and a family-friendly women's history scavenger hunt activity.

SPOTLIGHT GALLERY TALKS | WOMEN ARTISTS

Select Wednesdays, 1-2 pm

SPOTLIGHT ON WOMEN ARTISTS IN CHENEY GALLERY, WITH LISA WILLIAMS

March 2

DECORATIVE WOMEN IN AMERICAN ART, WITH JASMINE DEJACKOME

March 30

SPOTLIGHT ON VALERIE HEGARTY, WITH MAURA O'SHEA

March 23

GALLERY TALK | FOCUS ON SHAKER

February 3, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

February 23, 1-2 p.m.

Dr. Steve Miller, a noted Shaker authority will present a one-hour tour of the Shaker Gallery. Following a brief introduction to who the Shakers are, he will talk about some of the most interesting and important objects on display. Dr. Miller's most recent books are *From Shaker Lands* and *Shaker Hands and Inspired Innovations: A Celebration of Shaker Ingenuity*. The latter is based on his large-scale exhibition of that title at the NBMAA in 2010. Both books were published by University Press of New England.



ADULT STUDIO

WEEKLY WATERCOLOR CLASS WITH MARY SMEALLIE

Wednesdays 2-4 p.m.

\$45 Members; \$60 non-Members

February 2, 9, 16, 23

March 9, 16, 23, 30

ADULT STUDIO WORKSHOP | PRINT MAKING WITH JIM BRUNELLE

Saturday, February 5, 12 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

ADULT STUDIO WORKSHOP | WORKING WITH CLAY WITH JIM BRUNELLE

Saturday, March 5, 12 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

TOURS

DOCENT-LED TOURS

Guided tours will resume as soon as the winter COVID spike is back to safer levels. Please check the website calendar for updates.

SCHOOL TOURS

The NBMAA is always refreshing and reinventing our tour experiences for students and adult groups, alike. Artist in the Landscape Tour engages everyone in conversations on environmentalism, the ways in which landscapes are changed naturally and mechanically, and how we can steward the land responsibly. To learn more about our new tour offering or to book your class trip visit www.nbmaa.org/school-visits

THE STEINWAY STORY

Are you a regular attendee of the NBMAA's many concerts and performances? If so, you may have noticed a new addition to the Stanley Works Center – a Steinway grand piano. The acquisition of this exquisite instrument was made possible by donor Julie Mark and Family in memory of Dr. Marian Mark; as well as coordination, guidance, and service from Tony Hulme of Hulme & Sweeney Piano Service, Inc.; Angelina Gadeliya, President of The Fryderyk Chopin Society of CT, a program of the Polish American Foundation of CT; and Anita Ferrante.

Major support for the project was provided by the Anthony S. and Evelyn L. Hulme Charitable Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and the Richard P. Garmany Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. Additional support was also provided by the Anita Arcuni Ferrante and Anthony Ferrante Giving Fund; Dona V. and Michael Cassella; Mariola and Andrzej Banaszuk; Adam Formus; and Misha Tatinets.

Visit page 19 for upcoming performances at the NBMAA.

DEVELOPMENT

Membership

Did you receive a gift Membership during the holidays, or recently renew your own Membership? The New Britain Museum of American Art wishes to thank you for supporting this very special place and our mission to amplify the voices of all Americans by making accessible our stunning permanent collection, innovative special exhibitions, and stimulating educational offerings.

It's a great time to be a Museum Member as we prepare to celebrate the Members Opening of *The Poetry of Nature: Hudson River School Landscapes from the New-York Historical Society* later this month, along with an extensive menu of related educational programs and nightlife offerings to keep you engaged all winter long.

We hope you enjoy receiving this monthly newsletter and weekly e-blasts filled with information on what's new on view in the galleries and upcoming events. Be sure to check nbmaa.org often for calendar updates and exhibition-related information.

Thank you for being a Member of the NBMAA.

JOHN BUTLER TALCOTT SOCIETY BLACK TIE DIRECTOR'S DINNER

Save the Date for **Saturday, June 4, 2022** for the annual black-tie dinner to celebrate members of the John Butler Talcott Society. Formal invitation to follow. Interested in furthering your support of the NBMAA and attending? Join the JBTS with an annual membership commitment of \$2,500 or more!

HERITAGE SOCIETY CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH

Members of the NBMAA's Heritage Society, or those generous individuals who have included the Museum in their estate plans, are cordially invited to a champagne brunch in their honor. The Brunch will be held on **Saturday, April 30, 2022**; formal invitation to follow.

LEAVE YOUR LEGACY AT THE NBMAA

Has the New Britain Museum of American Art entertained, educated and delighted you?

You can help to ensure the museum will inspire generations to come without giving away your assets today.

You don't have to make a gift today, but maybe you can plan a gift tomorrow.

For a simple sentence in your will or sample language to share with your attorney, contact **Amanda Shuman-Bisson, Associate Director of Development 860 229-0257, ext. 246.**

SAVE THE DATE

FOR THE NBMAA'S ONLINE AUCTION

Bidding will be through OneCause at www.artpartyoftheyear.org from April 27—May 8. Visit the Museum during those dates to see the works on view in the Low Illustration Gallery from April 26 – May 8. Proceeds will support the NBMAA's exhibitions and programming.

Stay tuned for announcements and details about the FALL Art Party of the Year fundraising event.

ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021

Board of Trustees Chair Dona V. Cassella welcomed guests to the meeting via Zoom.



ELECTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES CLASS OF 2024

Russell E. Burke III
Cynthia Cooper
David Jepson
René Rosado
Marenda Brown-Stitzer
Claudia Thesing, PhD

ROTATING OFF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND APPOINTED TRUSTEE EMERITUS

David Polk
Melinda Sullivan

CONTINUING TRUSTEES:

Class of 2022

Dona V. Cassella

Anita Ferrante
Neal Freuden
John N. Howard
Kelly Jarvis
John M. Jezowski
Tania Pichardo Weiss
Susan Rathgeber
Thomas Soyster
Albert Tomasso
Dr. Susan Austin Warner
Dr. Peter Yu
René Rosado

Class of 2023

John C. Bombara
Kenneth Boudreau
Gail Byeff
Kenneth J. Carifa

Kay Knight Clarke
Gary Knoble
Logan Milliken
Michele Parrotta
Nancy Stuart

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND SLATE OF OFFICERS

Dona V. Cassella, *Chair*
Kay Knight Clarke, *Vice-Chair*
Kenneth Carifa, *Secretary*
John C. Bombara, *Treasurer*
Kenneth Boudreau, *At Large*
David Jepson, *At Large*
Gary Knoble, *At Large*
Dr. Peter Yu, *At Large*
Anita A. Ferrante, *Immediate Past Chair*



Iké Udé, *Sartorial Anarchy 31*, 2013, Pigment on satin paper (edition of 5), 45 3/4 x 36 1/2 in. (116.2 x 92.7 cm), Alice Osborne Bristol Fund, 2014.67, featured in our newest permanent collection installation *People and Places in America, 1960s to Today*.

TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT



MAREND A BROWN-STITZER

I grew up in Kensington in the 1950's when it was still a small "farming" suburb of New Britain.

Visiting the NBMAA with my mother was always a special adventure to another world even though it was then only the Landers Building. The Museum was filled with beautiful pictures and objets d'art only to be seen there. This ignited a real curiosity in me for art and a desire to travel to the places represented in the pictures.

My family and I lived outside the US for a dozen years where I was able to indulge in my desire to visit many museums and travel extensively. Much of this travel has often been by foot as I love "walking" (the UK word for "hiking") in the countryside or the city.

I believe that art in all its forms is important for the enrichment of life and that art should be available to everyone in every locale. The NBMAA is the beacon for art in our community which is why my family and I have consistently supported its development and why I am so delighted to have been asked to serve as a Trustee of the Museum.



CLAUDIA THESING

Although I have only recently joined the NBMAA as a trustee, I am not new to the Museum by a long shot. My first introduction to the NBMAA and its collection was in the mid-1980s as a docent. Then, in the late 80's my late husband Bob and I installed the Museum's first computer system (six stand-alones with floppy discs). Shortly thereafter I joined the staff as development coordinator in the Museum's nascent development department. In 2005, after six years at the Hill-Stead Museum, I returned to the NBMAA as Director of Development at a pivotal point to help conclude the Museum's transformative capital campaign and expansion of 2006, and was a part of the leadership team that delivered the successful 2015 campaign and expansion. Collectively, over my 26 years at the NBMAA I have worked for every director, except for the first one (Sandy Low): Charlie Ferguson, Dan DuBois, Laurene Buckley, Douglas Hyland, and Min Jung Kim.

After nearly five years of retirement, I see joining the Board as a natural progression of my career, where I can build on my institutional knowledge and deep relationships to advance the Museum at this unique time as we welcome our seventh director. I am keen to play a role in development, planned giving, and strategic planning or wherever else I am needed.

My background includes a PhD in economics from the University of Connecticut, and I currently reside in Niantic.

Upcoming Music Programs

LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE



Concert News and Notes

Due to reduced capacity during the ongoing pandemic, there are 80 seats available for purchase for all Sunday Music Series or Fryderyk Chopin Society Concerts at the New Britain Museum of American Art.

PRICING

- **Museum Members** are always free but must register in advance; special concert presentations may have an additional charge for Museum Members.
- **Chopin Society attendees** receive 50% discount (\$7.50) for the FCS concerts; access to Museum galleries is included with concert ticket purchase.
- **Non-Members** are \$15 for all concerts; access to Museum galleries is included with concert ticket purchase.

PLEASE NOTE

- All concert tickets must be purchased in advance **online at nbmaa.org** or **call the Museum ticket desk at 860-229-0257, ext. 210.**
- "Walk-ins" on the day of show are no longer permitted. Please arrive early and check in at the Front Desk.
- Due to reduced capacities, tickets are limited. Once sold out, the Museum is not permitted to sell additional tickets.
- Doors to the auditorium open to the public at 2:30 p.m. and concert begins at 3:00 p.m.
- All pre-registered ticketholders must check in at Museum Front Desk to receive an entry voucher.

Fall & Winter Pub Nights

Join us in the newly renovated Landers House as we extend our Thursday night gatherings into Fall and Winter, and a rotating draft beer selection from local breweries Alvarium Beer Company, Five Churches Brewing, and more.

5:45 PM | Sylvia Bonney Halcyon Lounge

02.10.22

Matt Dwonszyk Duo

Fryderyk Chopin Society of Connecticut

Internationally renowned pianists present the works of Fryderyk Chopin and other musical masters.

3:00 PM | Stanley Works Center

03.27.22

Jay Herschberger

05.22.22

Kate Liu

04.24.22

Piotr Alexewicz

For detailed information, please visit the website of our program partners, the Fryderyk Chopin Society of Connecticut: www.chopinsocietyct.org/new-index

Sunday Music Series

Join us for NBMAA's longstanding monthly concert series, featuring local & regional performances from a variety of musical genres.

3:00 PM | Stanley Works Center

Counterpoint and Line in Art and Music: Sol LeWitt and the Interplay of Forms: Part II

Rescheduled to Sunday, June 5, 3-4:30 p.m.

Pianist Neely Bruce, the John Spencer Camp Professor of Music at Wesleyan University, will present a solo piano performance. Professor Bruce is a scholar of American music and composer of over 800 works.

\$10 Members; \$20 non-Member

John Brighenti presents Winter Romance: Songs for Vocal and Piano

Sunday, February 13, 3-4 p.m.

New Britain Symphony Orchestra presents Music for Country Fiddle

Sunday, March 13, 3-4 p.m.

Face coverings are required for all patrons ages two and up, regardless of vaccination status, while inside the venue. Masks may be removed briefly while eating and drinking. Guests will need to show proof of vaccination to attend events serving food and drinks at NBMAA. See website for details.



VALENTINE'S DAY 2022

DATE NIGHT

Thursday, February 10, 5:30-8 p.m.

Bring your sweetheart for a romantic evening in the Museum galleries on Thursday night; enjoy "Five After Five" admission (\$5 after 5 p.m.), the beauty of our American art collection, and a themed takeaway to savor back home.

SWEETHEART STROLL

Sunday, February 13, 3-4 p.m.

A docent-led tour with prosecco and chocolate-dipped strawberries served in the newly renovated Landers House to follow. Stay for the Sunday Music Series concert at 3:00 p.m. (separate pre-registration required) and enjoy Winter Romance: Songs for Vocal and Piano, featuring John Brighenti & Lou Provenzano.

Pre-registration is required; no tickets will be sold on day of event.

Proof of vaccination required (+ID) upon entry. No exceptions.

**Event capacity limited to 350 persons.*

FIRST FRIDAY

Our signature social event, featuring live music, art, food, spirits, and good friends. New Britain's best Happy Hour, since 1995!

Due to the ongoing pandemic, these social events may be rescheduled. Attendance is limited to 250 guests; pre-registration is highly recommended, and proof of vaccination (+ID) is required for entry. No exceptions.

Cash bar available. Event doors will open at 5:30 p.m.

Members \$7; non-Members \$12

Eight to the Bar

Friday, February 4, 5:30-8 p.m.

Savage Brothers Band

Friday, March 4, 5:30-8 p.m.

MUSEUM AFTER DARK: SCHOOL SPIRIT!

Friday, March 25, 8-11 p.m.

After two years, MAD is back! Join us for all the excitement of March MAD-ness, and show off your favorite high school or college colors with pride. This March MAD event will bring you back to "back in the day" and revisit the best years of your life.

Beer and wine are complimentary with your admission ticket; cash bar available. Snacks provided and food available for purchase. DJ music and dance floor!

Due to the ongoing pandemic, these social events may be rescheduled.

\$20 Members; \$30 non-Members

Proof of vaccination required (+ID) upon entry. No exceptions.

As the COVID situation continues to evolve, the status of all events is subject to change. Please check the nbmaa.org calendar for information.

Image: Anna Whelan Betts, *Girl with Valentine*, c. 1903, Oil on canvas, 21 1/8 x 13 1/8 in., Gift of the Famous Artists School, 1970.34LIC

| MUSEUM SPOTLIGHT



A



C



B



D

A. Left to right: This fall saw Gallery Talks galore covering special exhibitions, permanent collection installations, and acquisitions.

B. If you follow the NBMAA on social media, you might have noticed we've been taking a deep dive into Collections behind the scenes in our stories. Stay tuned for much more to come.

C. We are so thrilled to welcome back our Museum littles for Art Start and Art Explorer classes every Saturday morning

D. Sassy Black Yarns was one of the many local makers and sellers at December's extremely successful Holiday Community Celebration and Makers Market.



Jacob Lawrence, *The Builders*, 1974, Color silkscreen, 30 x 22 1/8 in., Silkscreen, Jane and Victor Darnell Fund, 1990.17, featured in our newest permanent collection installation *People and Places in America, 1960s to Today*.

NEW BRITAIN MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART
56 LEXINGTON STREET, NEW BRITAIN, CT
(860) 229-0257 | WWW.NBMAA.ORG



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 887
NEW BRITAIN, CT



PLAN TO HOST YOUR FUTURE GATHERING AT THE MUSEUM

The New Britain Museum of American Art is a unique and picturesque destination for your next special event!

With a world-class American Art collection and beautifully renovated Sylvia Bonney Halcyon Lounge overlooking the historic Walnut Hill Park, the NBMAA provides the perfect backdrop for a corporate event, meeting, cocktail reception, wedding, bridal shower, rehearsal dinner, and more.

The NBMAA offers flexible spaces for groups from 5 to 150 persons. To inquire about renting the Museum for your special event, please contact rentals@nbmaa.org or call **(860) 229-0257 ext. 209**.



GENERAL ADMISSION

\$15 adults
\$12 for Seniors
Children under 18 free
Members FREE
Thursday admission is \$5
after 5 every week.

MUSEUM HOURS

Monday: CLOSED
Tuesday-Sunday
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

SATURDAY ADMISSION

Free from 10 a.m. to noon
thanks to support from
the American Savings
Foundation.

MUSEUM CAFE

Tuesday-Sunday
9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
featuring local New Britain
fare.

ACCESSIBILITY

Please inquire at the Front
Desk for any assistance
you may require. We are
wheelchair accessible
and have two wheelchairs
available free of charge.

DIGITAL

www.nbmaa.org
facebook.com/nbmaa
twitter.com/nbmaa
instagram.com/nbmaa56